

Canine Bulletin

Nebraska Task Force - 1

April 2002

Type I test in Turkey

Submitted by: Elaine Sawtell

It was a bumpy ride through the stormy November night as Fred Pitts, his wife Cathy, and I flew to Istanbul.

Fred, a FEMA canine handler/evaluator from California; his wife Cathy, with a history of training 300 dogs as a senior trainer for Guide Dogs for the Blind, and I were to meet Pat and Hakan Kaynaroglu and conduct three days of training, followed by a FEMA Type II and Type I test, sponsored by International Emergency Response K9.

The sprawling city came into sight, and I began to relax until the Turkish Air pilot, in broken English, informed us there was, "a little problem." As we pulled up and headed off in the general direction of Afghanistan, I asked myself, "And just WHY am I doing this?"

The reason is clear. Turkey is a country criss-crossed by earthquake faults. Our mission as canine handlers and trainers is to do everything we can to help them prepare for the inevitable.

In the last few years, the quakes have been moving steadily west along fault lines toward Istanbul, home of 10 million people. In 1999, a quake hit the town of Izmet, just east of Istanbul. 40,000 people died.

The days passed quickly and the nights even quicker. We never got to bed before 2 a.m. and were up at 5:30. There was the usual Turkish political intrigue, crazy traffic, wonderful food, frustrations with the language barrier, and rain...constant rain until we departed 10 days later.

There is also the memory of the Turkish people. The firefighter from Ankara who spoke no English but told me through a translator of his sorrow about the events of September 11 and how he longed to respond and help with his dog (new Type I). The teenage translator, who was a Foreign Exchange student in Boston but was sent home after September 11. Vice President Mustafa Yasar Kelleci, who is putting everything on the line to help his people prepare a lifesaving response to a future disaster, as well as establishing services for the physically handicapped to cope with the problems they face today. The test victims. As in March, they spent long hours, up to eight hours, buried in metal barrels (a safety factor in case there is a quake), without complaint.

Once again I came away with great respect for the skill and commitment of these teams. Two passed the Type I test. The piles were real...two apartment buildings in crowded residential/business areas, knocked down the day before...one factory, the size of a football field. The distractions were real and everywhere: people, human waste, garbage, animals, dead and alive, food, unstable rubble, noise, confusion, added to the language barrier of taking directions from 3 American evaluators. They worked through it. They didn't count victims...they found them, all of them. They took care of their dogs, and their dogs will save lives.

On February 28, a 4.5 quake hit the Marmara Sea just outside of Istanbul. It may be an isolated event or the prelude to something bigger. The job is so big, the time is so short; but the work has begun.



Interpreter explains evaluators' instructions to Ankara firefighter.



K9 Liz finds her victim and alerts.

Special note

Submitted by: Elaine Sawtell

The Turkish canine handlers appreciate the generous donation of boots, helmets, and other surplus gear from NE-TF1 arranged by Captain Rick Klein. Ankara firefighter Teoman Bulduk proudly wore his new yellow helmet with "Lincoln Fire Department," "Canine," while K9 Liz found all six victims and became Turkey's first Type I disaster search canine.

Searching for type I teams

By: Fred Pitts, April 2002 Dog Talk, Volume 5/Number 2

International Emergency Response K9 (ERK9), a non-profit organization is looking for FEMA certified canine teams to place applications on file for possible deployment internationally in response to requests for aid from the government of a disaster struck nation. Our initial focus is Turkey, a nation that lives under the threat of a major earthquake that will cause extreme devastation...again. Teams responding for ERK9 do so as an unpaid volunteer. For further information send an email to fepitts@interx.net.

Babe was right!

Submitted by: Ditto

My fellow canines, the next time Zima comes whining around about what hard and dangerous work this herding is, tell her to GET A LIFE! I recently stayed with her (in the opposite end of the house, of course), and took the opportunity to see just what this herding is all about.

As you all know, my dear mother (rest her soul) was an Australian Cattle Dog; therefore, I have inherent knowledge of these things.

I also watched the movie "BABE" three times. If that doesn't make you an expert, I don't know what does!

Anyway, I met up close and personal Zima's sheep. They are not in the least vicious or disagreeable. As long as you are polite and speak nicely to them, they are perfectly willing to do what you ask... just like Babe said!

So, next time Zima comes dragging in complaining how hard she has to work to keep them in line, tell her she needs to go to Blockbuster and rent "BABE" and learn how to do her job!



Top and above: Ditto herds the sheep like no big deal.

Left: Monica and Ditto herd the sheep.

How Do I Submit Items for the Canine Bulletin

Mail, E-mail, or Fax items to:

Julie Marget

Lincoln Fire & Rescue

1801 "Q" Street

Lincoln, NE 68508

jmmarget@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Fax: 441-8292

Phone: 441-8352

Address/

Phone #

Changes Also
contact Julie



Mail your
training logs to:

Sandy Yost

1801 "Q" Street

Lincoln, NE 68508

Deployment Order

1. Monica Barger, Type 1
2. Amy Rising, Type 1
3. Elaine Sawtell, Type 1
4. Hershel McAlister, Type 2
5. Deborah Goodman, Type 2

National Disaster Search Dog Foundation Program

Submitted by: John Huff

First let me say, that I believe that we have some of the best Canine Search Specialist (CSS) in the entire US&R program. I can say this, because I have worked in numerous US&R disaster incidents, and seen first hand other CSS teams.

Several months ago, we were contacted by the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation about a placement program that they have implemented to assist US&R task forces to acquire capable dogs for their teams. Currently NE-TF1 has five certified CSS with the task force. Years ago, FEMA established criteria for task force personnel that mandated minimum staffing levels for ALL task force positions. This minimum is 50% of the recommended 3 deep in each position. That means that in order to meet this mandate, each task force must have at least six CSS's. Every task force has struggled to meet this mandate with CSS the only current position that FEMA has ignored their own mandate (due to the many challenges of finding CSS & capable dogs). Looking to the future of the entire NE-TF1 task force, we must continue to assure that we can field a team that is capable of meeting the goals of the National US&R program.

I want to assure current CSS that our goal is to supplement our outstanding CSS, not replace them. Several weeks ago, we began the process of recruiting possible recipients of the NDSDF canine. The application process is still being developed, but individuals that expressed interest have been invited to attend and observe local training, in an effort to educate them as to what a huge commitment they are considering.

The National Disaster Search Dog Foundation's goal is to provide trained certifiable dogs for up to 4 qualified members of the department for the benefit of the Task Force. The dogs will be trained to the basic level of certification. Selected handlers must then work to become a certified team with their new partner.

This placement will require a long term commitment from the handler, with each dog being placed on a permanent basis. Handlers chosen for this program must be willing to work as team members with other canine handlers, assisting in ongoing training and support of other US&R canine teams.

We will try to keep everyone informed as this program develops.

Upcoming tests

From April 2002 Dog Talk, Volume 5/Number 2

Type II Testing
September 28 - 29, 2002
Beverly, MASS

The fee for the test will be \$75.00 which includes all meals except for Saturday night's dinner. There will be a cookout Friday night as a welcome. (Coffee, bagels, box lunch, fruit, water, etc. available) Transportation will be provided at the site of the test. We have six more openings for the test. Contact Mark Dawson for further information:
Home (203) 629-2557 Work (203) 622-8087
Pager (860) 504-0295 Cell (203) 253-4795
Fax (203) 862-8913
Email MWDRescue503@worldnet.att.net

TENTATIVE in the fall
Fairfax, Virginia
TYPE II

2002 California Test Schedule:
May 19, L.A. City area, deadline for applications is April 8. August 17-18, San Diego area, deadline for applications is July 8. November 16-17, Riverside, CA area, deadline for applications is October 7.

Applications, with a \$25 testing fee attached can be sent to: Lynne Engelbert, 19327 Northampton Dr., Saratoga, CA 95070-3330. Checks should be made out to: National Disaster Search Dog Foundation or NDSDF with CSSWG Account indicated on the "memo" line.

CA and re-certifying (CA & out-of-state) teams have priority with out-of-state testing teams welcome to fill remaining slots, if available.

For information on California tests, contact Lynne Engelbert:
Fax: (650) 604-7051 or (650) 604-0994
Work: (650) 604-3112
Home: (408) 257-1784